

Connecting Libraries and Learning with Community Organizational Needs

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AGENDA

- Motivation
- LIS Department Engagement with University Libraries: Real Learning Connections
- Connecting University Libraries and a Community Project: VAWNet
- Working with Other Non-profits: An Inquiry into Needs

MOTIVATION - UNCG

- Community Engagement is about bringing people and organizations together to make a positive, significant, and lasting difference in the world in which we live.
- Together, we collectively imagine what it means to be stewards of our communities and to act as innovators who are redefining the public research university for the 21st century as an inclusive, collaborative, and responsive institution making a difference in the lives of students and the communities it serves.

For example

- Need a point of entry to #UNCG? Our referral desk is meant for local community members and orgs. [communityengagement.uncg.edu/r...](#)

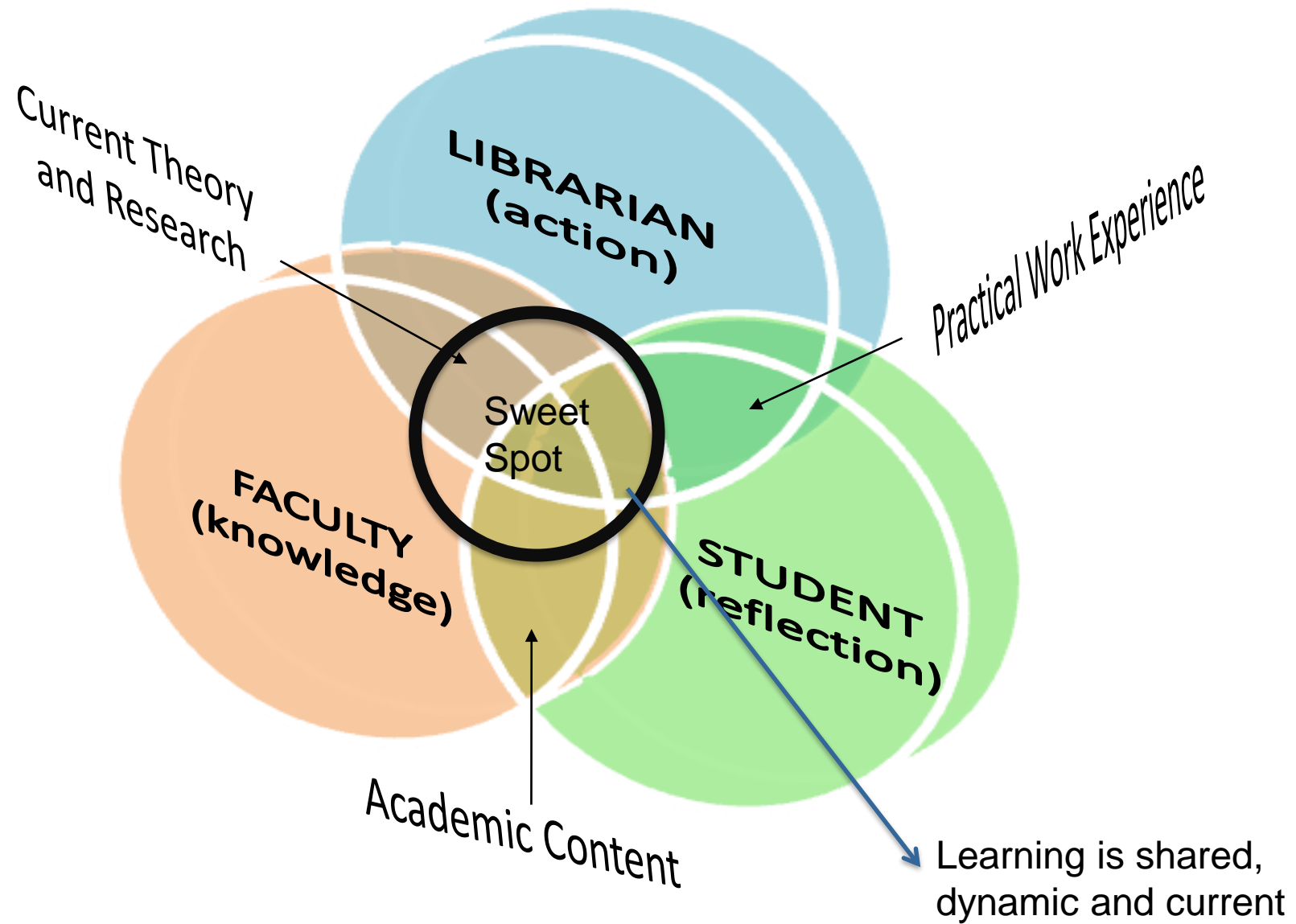
What does this mean for University Libraries

- The library organization has the chance to be engaged in the broader community
- Building an organization to organization connection rather than with individual staff members.
- Using LIS students as a bridge.

LIS DEPARTMENT ENGAGEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: REAL LEARNING CONNECTIONS

Real Learning Connections

- Stipend paid by UL
- Tuition subsidy paid by DLIS
- Projects were proposed by various departments in the Libraries and only some were funded
- Students chosen by LIS Faculty and Chair and Libraries Assistant Dean and Dean in consultation with project librarians.
- Learning Outcomes Established:
 - UL - Will benefit from research into comparable projects that the student will complete during each phase
 - UL - Will be exposed to theoretical material being taught in course
 - DLIS - Will see practical examination of theoretical concepts related to digitization and metadata for a digital project
 - DLIS - Will have the opportunity to examine issues of interdepartmental collaboration and communication.



Project: Redesign of VAWnet.org

Student: Sarah Loor

Jackson Library Librarian: Michael Crumpton

LIS Faculty Member: Anthony Chow

Project Background

- Project purpose:
 - VAWnet.org is a website of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV)
 - The National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women
- This project offered librarian and library student expertise to the NRCDV as the site is undergoing a redesign
 - VAWnet contracts with Herrington & Company, a web development company
- During the first half of the school year my work focused on finding new content to be added to the VAWnet site
 - Per a request from Casey Keene, VAWnet's manager, one type of resources I focused on were resources from state and local domestic violence agencies
 - Could be more traditional written articles but also included things like webinars and factsheets
 - Also included resources that my background helped me to locate
 - Law review articles
 - Resources in Spanish

[follow VAWnet on twitter](#)[like VAWnet on facebook](#)[SHARE](#)[+ advanced search](#)[SPECIAL COLLECTIONS](#)[APPLIED RESEARCH PAPERS](#)[TRAINING TOOLS](#)[NRCDV PUBLICATIONS](#)[NSVRC PUBLICATIONS](#)[HOME](#)[DOMESTIC VIOLENCE](#)[SEXUAL VIOLENCE](#)[GRANTS & FUNDING](#)[RESEARCH](#)[INTERNATIONAL & GLOBAL](#)[NEWS](#)[EVENTS](#)

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

For 2016, SAAM embraces the possibility of prevention, promoting action to promote safety, respect, and equality.

[▶ Learn more](#)

Sexual Assault
Awareness Month

Welcome to VAWnet, a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.

Our resource library is home to thousands of materials on violence against women and related issues, with particular attention to its intersections with various forms of oppression.

TA* Question
of the
Month...

[Subscribe](#)[View current](#)

MOST SEARCHED TAGS:

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual
Trans **Economic**
Justice People With
Disabilities **Policy**
Advocacy Youth Teens
Prevention Work With
Children **Research**
Children Exposed to
Domestic Violence
Schools Campuses

Learning Objectives

- Our piece of the project focused on adding new open-access content to the site and improving its search function
- Learn more about digital scholarship
 - How content is added to VAWnet
 - What sites are commonly used (ex: Digital Commons, Directory of Open Access Journals)
 - HTML training
 - How an open access journal is produced
 - Wrote an article on open access scholarship for the SEAALL newsletter

Organizational Outreach

Opportunity for academic library to provide expertise for non-profit partner and learn practitioner needs

Opportunity for non-profit to benefit from librarian POV in strengthening research options



The University of North Carolina
GREENSBORO
Department of Library and Information Studies

New Content

- 132 new resources submitted to Casey
- Each resource submitted in a specific format to allow for easy addition to the site
- Each resource included a brief summary for initial display and a longer summary

Communicating with Faith: Anti-Domestic Violence Advocacy in Religious Communities by Shamita Das Dasgupta for Manavi (2007)

<http://www.manavi.org/documents/OccasionalPaper3.pdf> (48 p.)

This document is the third in a series of occasional papers produced by Manavi, a New Jersey organization that works to empower South Asian women against violence in the United States. The paper discusses working with faith organizations to help end domestic violence against South Asian women.

This document is the third in a series of occasional papers produced by Manavi, a New Jersey organization that works to empower South Asian women against violence in the United States. The paper discusses working with faith organizations to help end domestic violence against South Asian women. The paper provides information about the different types of religious communities that exist in South Asia and ideas for how to work effectively with faith leaders and women of faith among the South Asian community.

Future Growth

- We also advised VAWnet about the potential to dramatically increase the amount of high-quality open-access content available via the site by including content from or linking to:
 - Institutional Repositories (such as NC Docks)
 - State online libraries (such as NC Live)
- This will be an area for future growth for VAWnet and something a future student could possibly work on

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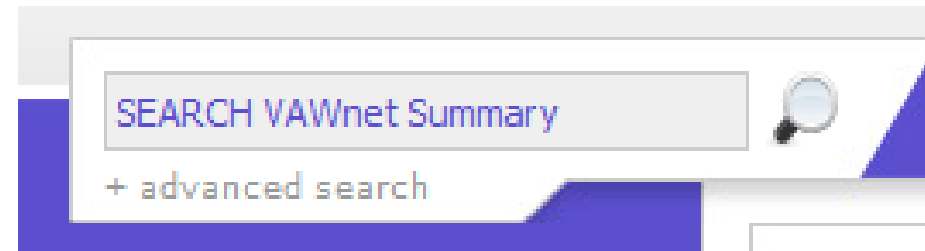
****Education:** PhD, Counselor Education, University of Florida--EdS, Marriage and Family Counseling, University of Florida--MEd, Marriage and Family Counseling, University of Florida--BA, Sociology and Psychology, Duke University ****Research Interests (selected):** The links between research and practice in domestic violence prevention and intervention--The role of resources in couple relationships--Premarital counseling--Preventive interventions in couple and family counseling

There are 38 included publications by Christine E. Murray :

Title	Date	Views	Brief Description
Domestic Violence Service Providers' Perceptions of Safety Planning: a Focus Group Study	2015	48	Although safety planning is a widespread practice with clients impacted by domestic violence, the research on it is limited. In this article, we present a review of existing literature describing practices and research in order to understand the gaps...
Domestic Violence Service Providers' Technology Readiness and Information Needs	2015	145	Technology-based applications hold promise as effective, efficient means of disseminating research- and practice-based information to professionals whose work relates to domestic violence. Other related uses of technology in the field have grown, inc...
Overcoming abuse: A phenomenological investigation of the journey to recovery from past intimate partner violence	2015	97	To date, minimal research has focused on the recovery process for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). This study utilized a phenomenological methodology to understand the lived experiences of survivors of IPV (N = 123) who had overcome abus...

Improvements to Search Feature

- This was originally going to be one of the main goals of my participation in the project, but progress in this area did not proceed as rapidly as we originally anticipated
 - Provided a memo about filtered searching using the job search site Idealist.org as a model
 - Provided analysis of search terms recorded by Google Analytics to identify potential gaps in VAWnet's proposed structure for their new site
 - Examples:
 - DV and the holidays
 - Scholarships for DV victims



New Website Home Page



Working with other organizations produced challenges and experiences

Challenges

- Nature of the project changed as we went along (regarding access to journals and e-books)
- Distance and timing of VAWnet's needs spilled over from available time for project
- Need to follow VAWnet's lead

Experiences

- Metadata
- HTML training through Codecademy
- Working on an article for *The Bottom Line*
- Journal of Learning Spaces
 - Copy editing
 - Layout editing

What was learned/gained!

- Student gained practical experience with resource accessibility, meta-data tools, copy editing and layout techniques and work
- We all learned of the complexities related to non-profit organizations that can inform future service learning opportunities for students
 - LIS curriculum can address these complexities with course activities
 - UL can be broadly informed for future community collaborations
- VAWnet learned about search schema and how that impacts research accessibility, it is expected that this will inform the upgrade to their website, currently under production
- Sarah is now - Online Legal Publishing Specialist at the American Immigration Lawyers Association

WHAT DO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS NEED FROM LIBRARIES

Overall Research Query

- Research Question: How can libraries engage with other community organizations, especially non-profits to support their needs with the unique skills offered by librarians?

LIS Course Research Assignment

- Instructions: In this profession, research is conducted in various ways and for multiple reasons. Find a non-profit community organization and set-up an appointment with someone to answer these questions for you. The research question is presented as the ultimate goal of gathering this information. The answers are to be subjective and not coached so as to get a true indication of the relationship. Please complete this short questionnaire with your representative and then summarize what you learned from this conversation looking for any themes or patterns to identify.

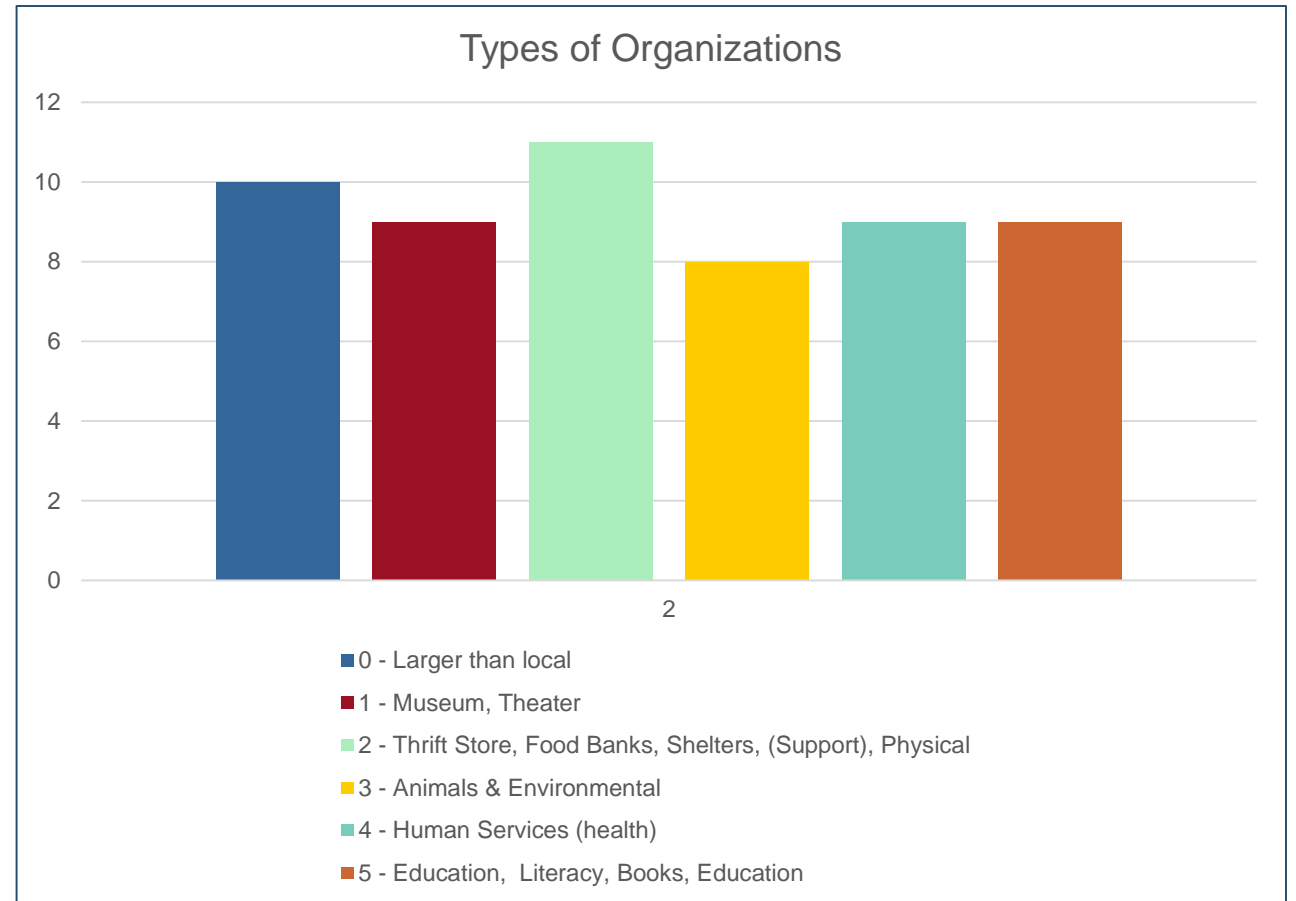
Two Open-ended Questions

Two checklists

1. What do community organizations need from the library?
2. What information skills do librarians have that these organizations could use?
3. These traditional values which are part of librarianship might also be shared values with other community non-profits, check all that apply:
4. These attributes can also be part of a librarian's competencies and might also be shared skills with other non-profits, please check all that you consider relevant:

What types of organizations?

- Girls on the Run
- Open Space Café Theatre
- Quaker House
- Schiele Museum



Values and Attributes that Libraries share with other organizations (Checklists)

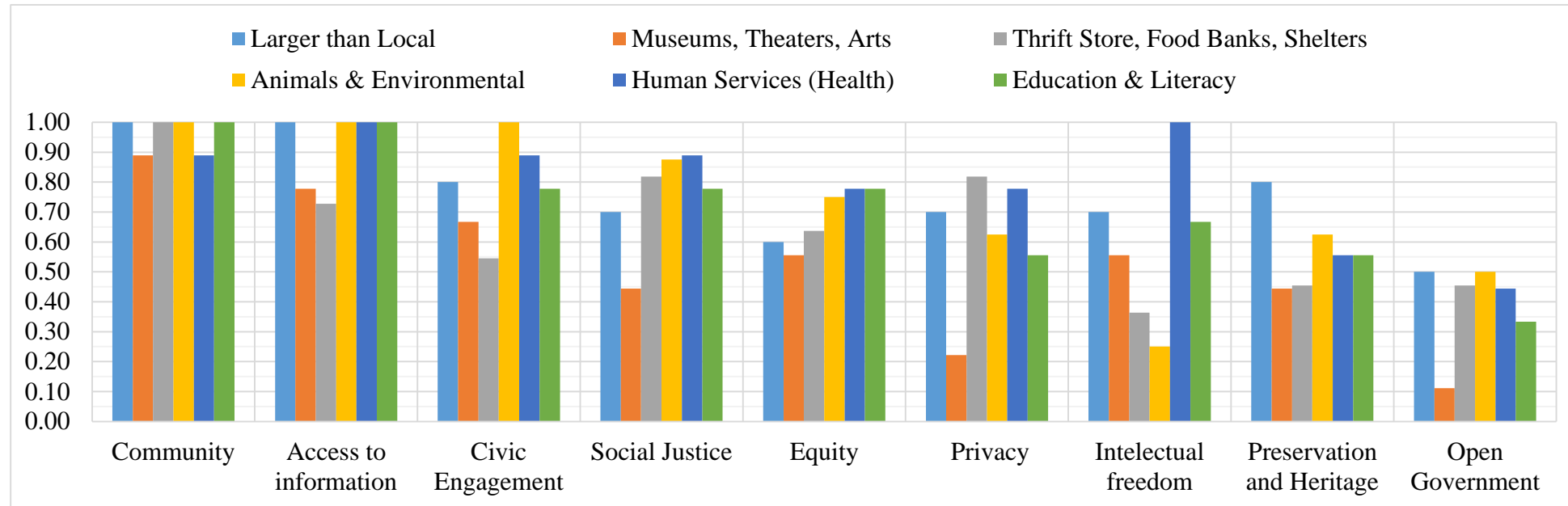
Traditional values

- Access to information
- Equity
- Intellectual freedom
- Privacy
- Community
- Social justice
- Preservation and Heritage
- Open Government
- Civic Engagement

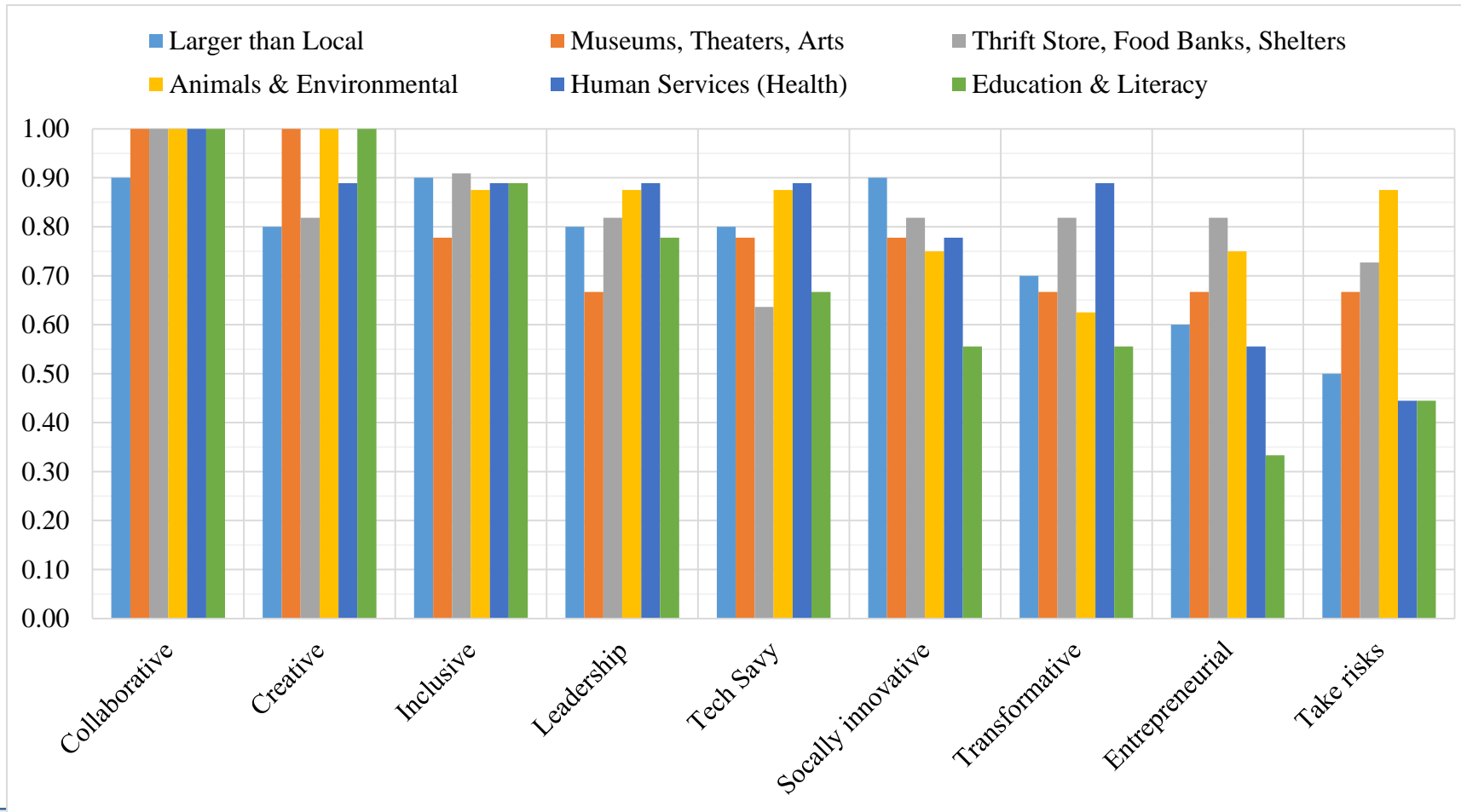
Attributes

- Collaborative
- Inclusive
- Creative
- Take risks
- Socially innovative
- Leadership
- Tech savvy
- Entrepreneurial
- transformative

Traditional Values

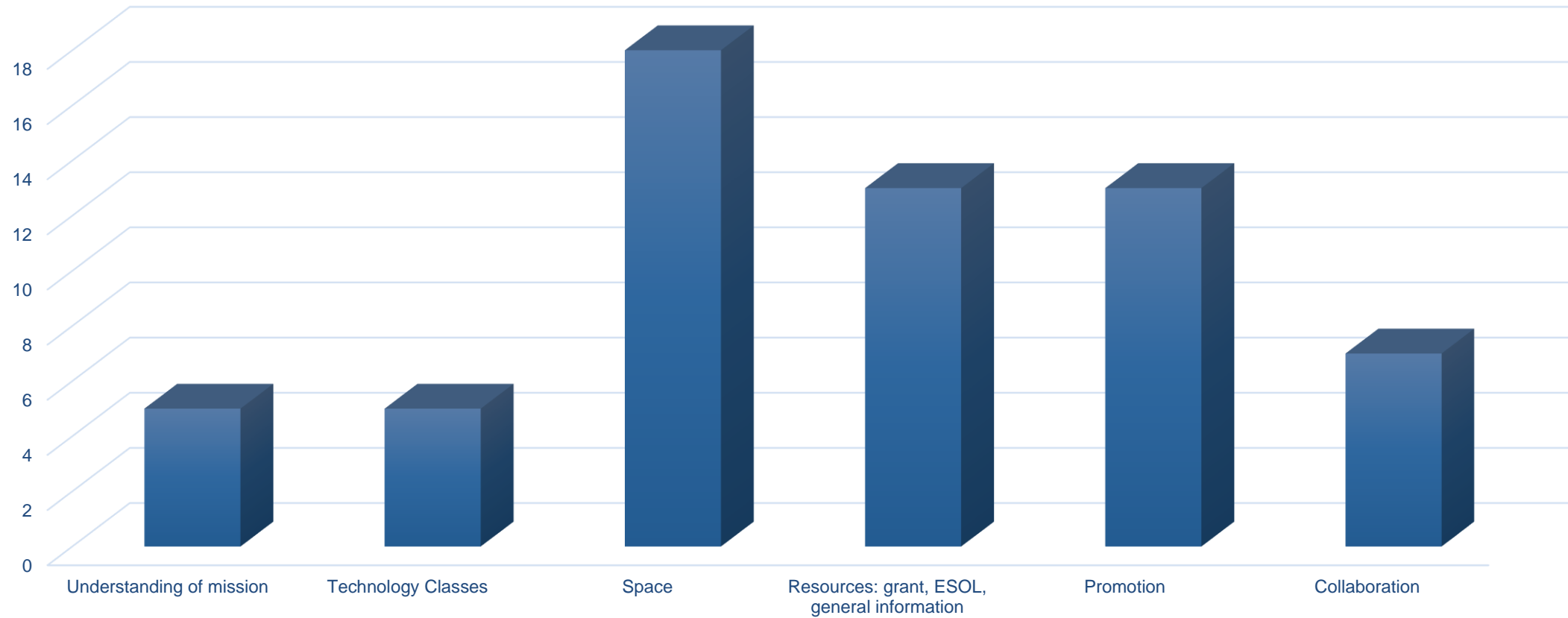


Shared Attributes



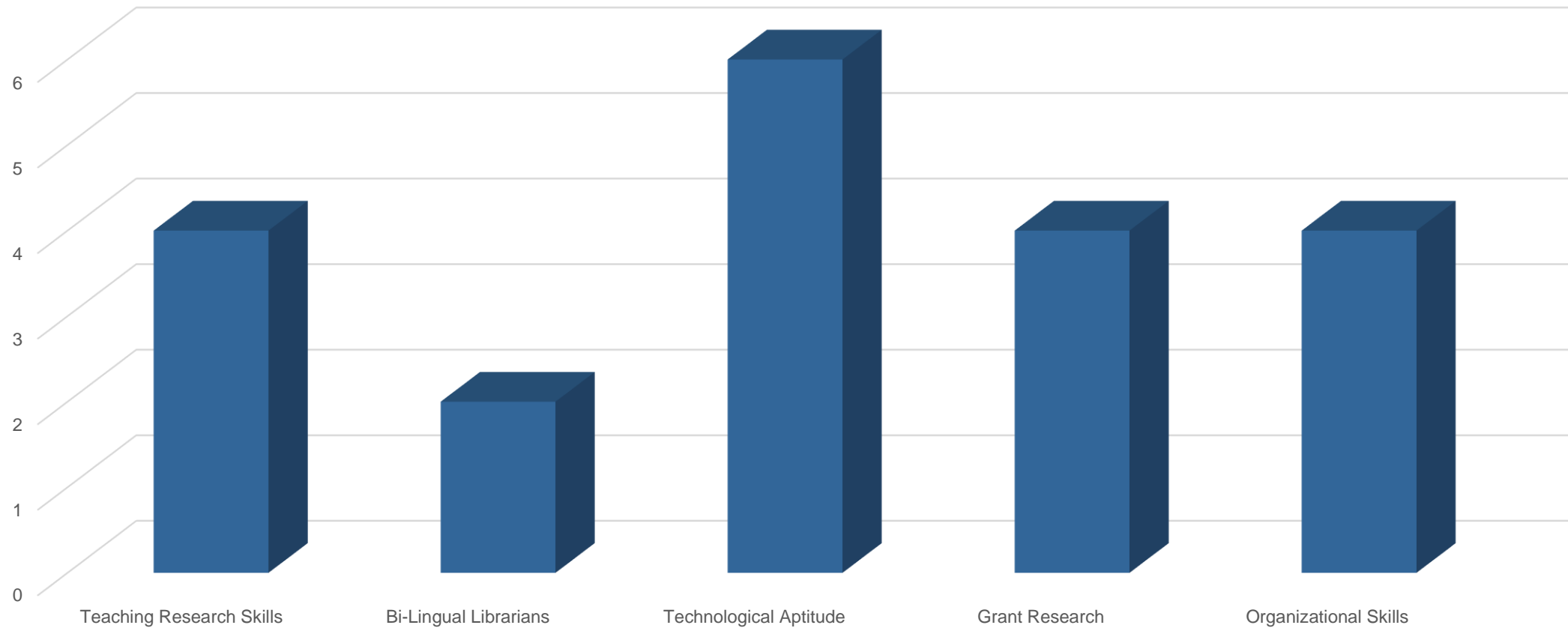
Needs

Identified Needs of Non-profit Organizations



Skills

Identified Skills Needed by Non-profits



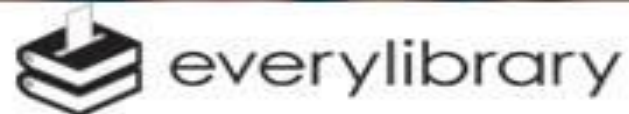
Initial Findings

- Libraries and other non-profits have many shared values and similar attributes
- Non-profits noted that library space was desirable for meetings.
- Grant-writing was cited as a particular need.
- Non-profits want technology skills from librarians and also teaching and training for their volunteers and clients
- Opportunities for further research on the roles libraries can play for other non-profits

**A library outranks any
other one thing a
community can do to
benefit its people. It is a
never failing spring in
the desert.**

-ANDREW CARNEGIE

action.everylibrary.org



CONCLUSIONS

- Learning opportunities exist for students, librarians, and library faculty.
- Organization to organization connections can be strong due to shared values and attributes.
- This descriptive study is just a brief look into this topic. Deeper research could further explore the opportunities and benefits of library/non-profit collaboration.

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